

CLAIMS:

We claim:

1. A method for verifying a document via a distributed computer network, the method
5 comprising the steps of:

(a) creating an electronic version of the document on a first client in the computer network;

(b) storing the electronic document on a server in the computer network;

(c) retrieving the electronic document on a second client in the computer network;

10 (d) electronically affixing at least one signing party's signature to the electronic document via the second client;

(e) electronically affixing a verifying party's signature to the electronic document via the second client, wherein the authorized user may be any certified party that has authority by law to verify and authenticate the signer of a document; and

15 (f) storing the signed, notarized, electronic document on said server.

2. The method according to claim 1, wherein the verifying party in step (e) is a notary.

3. The method according to claim 2, wherein step (e) further comprises electronically
20 affixing the notary's seal to the electronic document.

4. The method according to claim 3, wherein the notary's seal is stored electronically on the second client.

25 5. The method according to claim 1, wherein the verifying party's signature is stored on the second client.

6. The method according to claim 1, wherein the signing party is provided with the location of an authorized verifying party nearest to the signing party's geographic location.

7. The method according to claim 1, further comprising:
creating and updating an electronic journal file containing information regarding the
verification transaction, wherein said file is stored in a journal database for the verifying party.

8. The method according to claim 7, wherein the information stored in the journal file may
include:

sending party;
time;
dates;
type of document;
fees;
type of notarization;
signer's signature; and
verification information.

9. The method according to claim 1, wherein an authorized verifying party can both create
the electronic document and verify the electronic document.

10. The method according to claim 1, wherein a certified creator can only create the
electronic document.

11. A system for verifying a document via a distributed computer network, the system
comprising:

(a) means for creating an electronic version of the document on a first client in the
computer network;

(b) means for storing the electronic document on a server in the computer network;

(c) means for retrieving the electronic document on a second client in the computer
network;

(d) means for electronically affixing at least one signing party's signature to the
electronic document via the second client;

(e) means for electronically affixing a verifying party's signature to the electronic document via the second client, wherein the authorized user may be any certified party that has authority by law to verify and authenticate the signer of a document; and

(f) means for storing the signed, notarized, electronic document on said server.

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12. The system according to claim 11, wherein component (e) further comprises electronically affixing a notary seal to the electronic document.

13. The system according to claim 12, wherein the notary seal is stored electronically on the
10 second client.

14. The system according to claim 11, wherein the verifying party's signature is stored on the second client.

15. The system according to claim 11, further comprising:
an electronic journal file containing information regarding the verification transaction,
wherein said file is stored in a journal database for the verifying party.

16. The system according to claim 15, wherein the information stored in the journal file may
20 include:

sending party;
time;
dates;
type of document;
25 fees;
type of notarization;
signer's signature; and
verification information.

17. The system according to claim 11, further comprising means for providing the signing part with the location of an authorized verifying party nearest to the signing party's geographic location

5 18. A computer program product in a computer readable medium, for verifying a document via a distributed computer network, the computer program product comprising:

(a) first instructions for creating an electronic version of the document;

(b) second instructions for storing the electronic document on a server in the computer network;

10 (c) third instructions for retrieving the electronic document from said server;

(d) fourth instructions for electronically affixing at least one signing party's signature to the electronic document via the second client;

(e) fifth instructions for electronically affixing a verifying party's signature to the electronic document via the second client, wherein the authorized user may be any certified party that has authority by law to verify and authenticate the signer of a document; and

15 (f) sixth instructions for storing the signed, notarized, electronic document on said server.

19. The computer program product according to claim 18, wherein the fifth instructions further comprise electronically affixing a notary seal to the electronic document.

20 20. The computer program product according to claim 19, wherein the notary seal is stored electronically by the computer program.

21. The computer program product according to claim 18, wherein the verifying party's signature is stored by the computer program.

22. The computer program product according to claim 18, further comprising instructions for providing the signing party with the location of an authorized verifying party nearest to the signing party's geographic location.

23. The computer program product according to claim 18, further comprising:

an electronic journal file containing information regarding the verification transaction,
wherein said file is stored in a journal database for the verifying party.

24. The computer program product according to claim 23, wherein the information stored in
5 the journal file may include:

sending party;

time;

dates;

type of document;

10 fees;

type of notarization;

signer's signature; and

verification information.

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